

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Lt. Garlin Murl Conner Memorial
2 Highway in Clinton County.

3 WHEREAS, Garlin Murl Conner was born in Aaron, Kentucky, on June 2, 1919,
4 the third oldest of eleven children; and

5 WHEREAS, Murl Conner entered the United States Army on March 1, 1941; and

6 WHEREAS, Murl Conner served in K Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry
7 Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, and eventually rose to the rank of First Lieutenant; and

8 WHEREAS, Lt. Conner fought for 28 consecutive months from French Morocco in
9 North Africa through Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany, was wounded seven times, and
10 was awarded three Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal, and four Silver Stars; and

11 WHEREAS, Murl Conner's Medal of Honor citation tells a tale of selfless heroism
12 without regard for his personal safety; and

13 WHEREAS, on the morning of January 24, 1945, near the town of Houssen,
14 France, when German forces ferociously counterattacked the front left flank of the 7th
15 Infantry Regiment with 600 infantry troops, six Mark VI tanks, and tank destroyers, Lt.
16 Conner, serving as the Intelligence Officer in the 3d Battalion Command Post at the time
17 of the attack, immediately volunteered to run straight into the heart of the enemy assault
18 to get to a position from which he could direct friendly artillery on the advancing enemy
19 forces; and

20 WHEREAS, with complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Conner
21 maneuvered through enemy artillery fire, while unrolling telephone wire needed to
22 communicate with the Battalion command post. Upon reaching the Battalion's front line,
23 he continued to move forward under the enemy assault to a position 30 yards in front of
24 the defending United States forces, where he plunged into a shallow ditch that provided
25 minimal protection from the advancing enemy's heavy machine gun and small arms fire.
26 With rounds impacting all around him, Lt. Conner calmly directed multiple fire missions,
27 adjusting round after round of artillery from his prone position, until the enemy was

1 forced to halt its advance and seek cover behind a nearby dike; and

2 WHEREAS, for three hours, Lt. Conner remained in this compromised position,
3 enduring the repeated onslaught of German infantry which, at one point, advanced to
4 within five yards of his position. As German infantry regrouped and began to mass in an
5 overwhelming assault, Lt. Conner ordered friendly artillery to concentrate directly on his
6 own position, having resolved to die if necessary to destroy the enemy advance. Ignoring
7 the friendly artillery shells blanketing his position and exploding mere feet from him, Lt.
8 Conner continued to direct artillery fire on the enemy assault swarming around him until
9 the German attack was finally broken; and

10 WHEREAS, by his heroism and disregard for his own life, Lt. Conner stopped the
11 enemy advance. The artillery he expertly directed, while under constant enemy fire, killed
12 approximately fifty German soldiers and wounded an estimated one hundred more,
13 preventing what would have undoubtedly been heavy friendly casualties. His actions are
14 in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon
15 himself, the 3d Infantry Division, and the United States Army; and

16 WHEREAS, Lt. Conner was originally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for
17 his gallantry and intrepidity that day; and

18 WHEREAS, Murl Conner returned home to Clinton County, and married Lyda
19 Pauline Wells on July 9, 1945; the couple had one son, Paul, one grandson, and three
20 granddaughters; and

21 WHEREAS, Murl Conner continued farming and was president of the Clinton
22 County Farm Bureau for 17 years; he also was active in various veterans organizations
23 including the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Disabled American Veterans, and
24 traveled to many nearby counties to assist veterans and their dependents with claims for
25 benefits due them as a result of military service; and

26 WHEREAS, after Murl Conner died in 1998, the untold story of his heroism came
27 to light through research conducted by Richard Chilton, a Green Beret veteran; Chilton

1 and Walton Haddix took up the campaign to grant Conner the appropriate recognition for
2 his valor; and

3 WHEREAS, "From Honor to Medal: The Story of Garlin M. Conner," an hour-long
4 documentary about Conner's life and the campaign to honor him, will be released in
5 March, 2020; and

6 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2018, President Donald Trump posthumously awarded the
7 Medal of Honor to Lt. Garlin Murl Conner, presenting the award to his widow, Phyllis;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, President Trump's words that day were a fitting tribute: "Lt. Garlin
10 Murl Conner was indeed a giant. In his daring, his devotion, and his duty, he was larger
11 than life. And that, he was. He will never, ever be forgotten. We will never forget his
12 story. And we will always be grateful to God for giving us heroes like Murl"; and

13 WHEREAS, the gallantry and sacrifice of Garlin Murl Conner are deserving of
14 tangible recognition;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

17 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the portion of United
18 States Route 127 in Clinton County, from mile point 3.008 to mile point 9.313, as the "Lt.
19 Garlin Murl Conner Memorial Highway" and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of
20 this Resolution, erect appropriate signs denoting this designation. The signs erected under
21 this Section shall indicate that Lt. Conner was a recipient of the Medal of Honor.